

[25 April, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

(b) whether it is also a fact that neither the Central Government have provided any land to him so far, nor the State Government have taken initiative to provide assistance; and

(c) whether Government would take a positive view towards the initiative and provide assistance to set up such centres as well as ask the State Government also to extend assistance for this purpose?

**THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR):** (a) to (c) No proposal is under the consideration of the Department of Culture. However, the Department of Culture has extended an assistance of Rs. 2,04,000/- to an NGO namely Kalashram during the year 2000-01. Shri Birju Maharaj happens to be the President of this organization.

**Promotion of Tourism and Cultural Activities in Chhattisgarh**

**4402. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:** Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have not so far initiated any scheme for the promotion of tourism and cultural activities in the State of Chhattisgarh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the amount earmarked by the Central Government for promotion of tourism in tribal areas of Chhattisgarh during the next three years, area-wise, project-wise?

**THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR):** (a) Development and promotion of tourism and cultural activities is the responsibility of the State Governments/UT Administrations. However, the Department of Tourism, Government of India provides central financial assistance on the basis of projects prioritised annually in consultation with them. For the year 2000-2001, an amount of Rs. 115.29 lakhs has been sanctioned which includes Dussehra Festival at Jagdalpur.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No funds are specifically earmarked State-wise. Central financial assistance is provided on the basis of projects prioritised every year in consultation with the States/UTs including the State of Chhattisgarh, for the identified tourist places/centres.

**Corruption charges against ITDC Chairman**

4403. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether disciplinary inquiry and other several charges of corruption are pending against Ms. Asha Murthy the Chairman of ITDC;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether she is holding any key post in ITDC; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against her?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Ms. Asha Murthy who is Director on the ITDC Board is holding additional charge of the post of Chairman and Managing Director ITDC w.e.f. 16.02.2000.

(d) Does not arise.

**Monuments of national importance included in World Heritage List of UNESCO**

4404. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) how many centrally protected monuments of national importance in India, are included in the World Heritage List of UNESCO;

(b) the names and locations thereof;

(c) Whether UNESCO is considering withdrawal of recognition to Hampi in Karnataka and if so, whether this is due to reported lapses on the part of Archaeological Survey of India; and